

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 03092 311041Z

14

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01 /089 W

----- 106134

R 301623Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

DOD

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR SW

SUBJ: KING'S FIGHT FOR LIFE DRAWS UNIVERSAL ADMIRATION

1. THE STUBBORN WILL TO LIVE OF 90-YEAR-OLD KING GUSTAF VI ADOLF IS A PHENOMENON WHICH HAS ATTRACTED WIDESPREAD ATTENTION AND UNIVERSAL ADMIRATION. KING WAS TAKEN TO HOSPITAL AUG 18 WITH BLEEDING ULCER. MAJOR OPERATION AUG 20 REMOVED HALF OF STOMACH AND LARGE SECTION OF DUODENUM. WHEN HIS MEDICAL CONDITION WAS DESCRIBED, CONSENSUS OF PROFESSIONAL OBSERVERS WAS THAT LIFE EXPECTANCY WAS MEASURABLE IN DAYS, IF NOT HOURS.

2. SINCE THEN HE HAS PASSED THROUGH SEVERAL CRISES BUT SHOWS NO SIGN OF GIVING UP THE STRUGGLE. THE LONG VIGIL HAS SERVED TO BRING OUT THE ENDURING BOND BETWEEN THE OLD MONARCH AND SWEDISH PEOPLE.

3. HUNDREDS STAND FOR A TIME OUTSIDE HALSINGBORG HOSPITAL EACH DAY. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHICH IS FORMALLY COMMITTED TO ABOLITION OF MONARCHY, HAS FELT

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COMPELLED TO CURTAIL ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUNCTIONS OUT OF

RESPECT FOR ILL MONARCH, EVEN THOUGH IT CONSIDERS ITS
SURVIVAL IN GOVERNMENT DEPENDS ON ALL-OUT ELECTION DRIVE.
FORMER SOCDEM PRIME MINISTER TAGE ERLANDER WAS WIDELY
APPLAUDED FOR SENDING KING PERSONAL GET-WELL MESSAGE.

4. SEVERAL DOZENS HEADS OF STATE HAVE SENT MESSAGES TO
KING, AND HE RECEIVES HUNDREDS OF LETTERS OR FLOWER
BOUQUETS DAILY.

COMMENT: PHENOMENA NOTED IN THIS TELEGRAM CAN BE UNDER-
STOOD AS EXPRESSION OF AFFECTION FOR A COURAGEOUS OLD
FATHER FIGURE. BUT IT ALSO POINTS UP ATTACHMENT OF
AVERAGE SWEDE TO MONARCHY AS SYMBOL OF OLD VALUES WHICH
ENDURE AND OF POWERLESSNESS OF LEFTIST POLITICAL INTERESTS
WHICH WOULD LIKE TO WRITE OFF KING AS ANACHRONISM.
OLSEN

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